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"I'm disgusted..." – AMADHA

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"I nearly got sick comparing overseas prices to Canada's." – the other guy

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Celebrity Buzz

Jonas brother says 'I do' at castle

pg 27

Actress died of natural causes: Official

L.A. Brittany Murphy, the actress who got her start in the sleeper hit Clueless and rose to stardom in 8 Mile before her movie roles declined in recent years, died yesterday morning in Los Angeles of what appeared to be natural causes, an L.A. County coroner's official said. She was 32.

Murphy was transported to the Cedars-Sinai Medical Center after the L.A. Fire Department responded to a call at 8 a.m. at the home she shared with her husband, British screenwriter Simon Monjack, in the Hollywood Hills.

Brittany Murphy

Assistant Chief Coroner Ed Winter said Murphy apparently collapsed in the bathroom, and authorities were looking into her medical history.

An official cause of death may not be determined for some time, since toxicology tests will be required, but "it appears to be natural," Winter said. He said an autopsy was planned for today or Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News on the Move

What's this barcode for?
Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3

Entertainment pg 23

Great music of the decade

On the web
Visit metronews.ca for news updates

Pets **Getting jolly with Santa**

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Winnie, a six-year-old greyhound, poses with Santa at PetSmart on Macleod Trail yesterday. An annual event raised money for the Southern Alberta Greyhound Association (SAGA), which finds good homes for retired greyhounds.

Handling of flu gets passing grade: Poll

Only 9% of Canadians say they're concerned about H1N1

Flu **Outbreak**

Canadians think governments at all three levels have done an OK job of handling the H1N1 flu, though many also think the risk was exaggerated, a new poll suggests.

The Canadian Press Harris-Decima survey suggests that as concern is waning among Canadians, they are generally satisfied with how their governments responded to the pandemic.

Nearly three-quarters — or 73 per cent — of those who took part in the survey assessed Ottawa's performance as good or fair, and the numbers were similar at provincial and municipal levels. That's up from 61 per cent last month, when there were vaccine distribution challenges and lineups at clinics were hours long.

Provincially, the biggest change was 41 per cent of respondents in Alberta saying their government was handling H1N1 poorly, as opposed to 61 per cent one month ago.

At that time the controversy had just erupted over Calgary Flames players and their families getting the vaccine, when others were finding it more difficult to get. That issue and the others have since been resolved, said Doug Anderson, senior vice-president of Harris-Decima.

Now, many clinics have closed, and the rate of new infections seems to be dropping based on hospitalizations, with declines being reported in all provinces and territories.

That appears to be reflected in a receding level of concern among those surveyed. Just nine per cent said they were very concerned about swine flu, compared with 11 per cent two weeks ago and 22 per cent three weeks before that.

The survey also found most of those polled have either already received the vaccine or decided they won't be getting it, leaving just 12 per cent of respondents who said they still intend to get vaccinated.

The poll of about 1,000 Canadians was conducted between Dec. 10 and 13, and has a margin of error of 3.1 per cent, 19 times out of 20.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mayor back from climate summit with city award

Go Green

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Mayor Dave Bronconnier is back from an invitation-only mayoral climate summit in Copenhagen and returned with an accolade.

Bronconnier represented Calgary as one of the only three Canadian cities invited, alongside Vancouver and Toronto, and said he was honoured to have been part of the summit.

"I'm very proud of Calgary and we're definitely a leader and we were recognized because of that, and I am very honoured," Bronconnier said yesterday.

"People were quite surprised to see an energy capital like Calgary receive an award and see we're actually making significant advances."

Calgary was honoured with the "Reaching Out to Global Cities" award but, more importantly, Bronconnier said, is the future where Calgary is heading.

"We are the only North American city who will have 100 per cent of its municipal needs on renewables met by 2012. That's a pretty important distinction."

Bronconnier said the bottom line from the trip is Calgary had an opportunity to share and the city's message was well-received.

The Calgary Climate Change Accord was also recognized at the summit, as it calls to reduce green house-gas emissions in energy cities generated by their activities by a minimum of 20 per cent by 2020, with a further minimum reduction of 80 per cent by 2050.

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Local

Balloon promise for H1N1 victim

Friends and family of 16-year-old Michael Gorbous, who died last week due to H1N1 complications, will gather at Edworthy park today to release 200 balloons into the air with messages written to the deceased teen. A close friend made a pact with Gorbous to carry out the balloon promise. METRO CALGARY

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

Parking spot on shoppers' lists

Drivers circle lots, as some malls experience seasonal gridlock

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Last minute shoppers will have more to worry about than finding the perfect gift amongst fellow shoppers as parking has been a problem at some city malls.

Samantha Rogen spent a half hour circling the Southcentre Mall parking lot looking for a spot yesterday afternoon and that was after a 20-minute search at Market Mall on Saturday.

"I'm not sure what it is this year, but it seems like there is less parking. But I suppose it could just be because this mall is busier this year. I really don't know," she said after completing her search.

"But it has to be done. I would almost take a day off and come during the day if I thought it might be easier to park."

A quick survey at Southcentre found most motorists spent more than 10 minutes looking for a spot, but shoppers at Chinook Centre seemed to have better luck.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Calgarians were in luck if they got to deal with massive mall crowds this weekend, as they navigated gridlock in the parking areas of some city malls.

Downtown option

- The Calgary Downtown Association encourages shoppers to try their luck downtown at discounted night and with weekend parking rates.

Mark Fletcher said he and his family found a spot within five minutes.

"I think we must have fluked out because there were people pulling out when we were pulling in," he said.

Parking traffic attendants in the lots were too busy to comment to Metro but said they have been "steady."

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Ice on waterways not safe for recreation: Fire department

Activity on ice-covered waterways in and around Calgary is being discouraged by the Calgary fire department.

Firefighters responded to a number of calls on the Bow and Elbow rivers and the Glenmore Reservoir over the past number of days, the fire department said.

Acting battalion Chief Al Zeller said activity on the waterways is not recommended.

"The waterways are simply too dangerous at this point to be used for any recreational activities," he said.

The fire department said that with warmer temperatures, people head out to the waterways for several different activities — but even though the city had a deep freeze last week, it may not have been enough to secure a solid ice surface.

The fire department said drastic temperature changes and quick flow rates in the rivers have created "weak and unpredictable" ice formations.

The fire department also said that even though some small local lakes seem solid, they have tested several areas and have determined the surfaces unsafe. METRO CALGARY

Calgary tweets

- @Dbarberino People with small children ... when shopping at the busiest time of year please control them or leave them at home. Rrrrrr #yyc!
- @darcybross Snowfall has returned to #yyc — At least the cold-cold weather is staying away. Perhaps some sledding with @MissMairead is in order.
- @litui Snow plowing on my street first thing in the morning on Sunday, TWO WEEKS after the last major snowfall. FAIL. #yyc #snow

metronews.ca
What's online today.

Immigration Guidy Mamann has the story of a young immigrant caught between two agencies at **metronews.ca/immigration**

Lotteries

Friday, Dec. 18
Lotto Max: 8, 10, 15, 17, 33, 34 & 35 Bonus 13
Saturday, Dec. 19
Lotto 6/49: 12, 15, 19, 41, 42 & 49 Bonus 48
These results are not official.

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CALGARY OBITUARIES

CalgaryObits.com notes the following deaths in our community:

BINDER, Judy Jean (nee Croissant)
CHEPIL, Scott William Matthew
DAOUST, Paul Ernest
DYLER, Glenn
FUNK, Henry
GORBOUS, Michael
GRAHAM, Amelia (Amy) Cecelia (nee Selinger)
GRANT, Dorothy Jean
HAASE, Joyce Marie (nee Howlett)
HAMILTON, William (Douglas)
HODSON, Brian William
IZZO, Pietro
KAPP, Walter John
KINDRET, Ronald Lawrence
KNIGHT, Viola (McKay)
LACHAPELLE, Ed
LUTZ, Ernest James (Jim)
MAGLIS, Roy Gordon Joseph
MAH, Wallace Wah Sun
MALLARI, Isabel Nonato (Bellie)
McNEILL, Vera Elizabeth
MOODIE, William
NAUMESCU, Mihaela Rodica (nee Bucur)
NELSON, Clyde Tom
RAFFAY, Margaret
RAHILLY, Donald Hugh
RICHARDSON, Dora Viola (nee Hendrickson)
ROTHERY, Ian M.P.
SEIB, Eva (nee Petrowicz)
THACKER, John Lawrence
WATSON, James C. (Jim)
WENGER, MD, LMCC, Heinz Horst
ZAUGG, Carolyn Elsie

For full obituaries go to CalgaryObits.com

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New LRT station open
Calgary Transit has opened its new 8th Street SW LRT station. Able to accommodate four cars, CT hopes the design will help cut down on crime. METRO CALGARY

Warmer than a car

Local cyclist explains appeal of biking in the winter

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

Some motorists might look at cyclists like Sean Carter as if he is crazy to be biking in the bitter winter cold.

But the truth is that he's probably warmer than most people in their cars.

"When you're in a car you're just stationary and when I'm biking, I work up a sweat and it actually gets quite warm. So it's not as cold as everyone might think," he said.

Carter said while people might question why someone would bike in -30 C temperatures, they might not realize the person doesn't own a car.

"Whether it's because they can't afford it or morally don't want one, some people just choose to bike. And that includes biking in the winter."

Carter also believes there are advantages to biking in the winter; he'd rather ride a plowed bike path over bumper-to-bumper traffic any day.

"I think the bike paths get cleared before the roads in most cases anyway, so it's a nice ride in the winter and the paths are dry," he said.

ROBIN KUNISKI/FOR METRO CALGARY

Sean Carter, owner of Bike Bike, enjoys hitting the streets on two wheels in any weather — including the bone-chilling cold — as he is one of the few who chooses to use a bike to get around the city instead of owning a car.

"And to be honest, I'd rather ride in the winter because motorists slow down and give you more space."

The most important thing about biking in the winter, Carter said, is safety, so he advises cyclists to always check their brakes and gear, and dress appropriately.

"You have to dress in layers and cover your face. I use a toque low and a neck warmer high so the only thing showing is my eyes. But some people even wear goggles to protect their eyes."

Singing to thank fellow soldiers

KRISTA SYLVESTER
krista.sylvester@metronews.ca

MUSIC The second annual Thank a Soldier mission is getting a little help from some friends this year.

Master Cpl. Elton Adams is a soldier and singer who wrote an entire album of songs while in Afghanistan and he will be performing at a free Thank a Soldier event next week, according to organizer Dave Murphy.

"His music is so real and different than anything I have heard. His performance will be streamed all over the world, including military bases," Murphy said.

Master Cpl. Elton Adams

Murphy said he is both surprised and amazed at how Thank a Solider has caught on, including the demand for next week's performance.

"In the past year alone, we have over three million members on the Facebook group. We're getting 5,000 new members alone everyday."

Murphy is happy with the showing of support spreading all over the world, especially because he has been working at the cause for a few years now before it really caught on.

"I think people have put politics aside and realize it's about the soldiers and they are really putting their support out there."

The free event takes place Monday at 2:30 p.m. at the Kensington Legion. Donations for the legion will be accepted.

News in brief

ROBBERY Calgary police are looking for a white male, 40, roughly five-foot-seven and 200 pounds with heavy build and a tanned reddish complexion after the Scotiabank in the 8100 block of Beddington Boulevard NW was robbed Friday afternoon. The man was wearing a dark blue toque, dark sweatshirt and was carrying a plastic bag, police said.

SEX TRADE A warrant related to an investigation into human trafficking led Calgary police to a suite in the 200 block of 6 Avenue SE last Wednesday, police said. Police said they believe the suite has been used to coordinate movements of individuals involved in the sex trade. As a result, two people — a Canadian resident and a foreign national — were found in the suite, though charges have not yet been laid. Two computers and 10 cellphones were seized for examination.

SNOW BANKS The City of Calgary is asking parents to exercise cautions when allowing their children to play on, or dig in some of the city's large snow banks. City crews have begun to shift snow banks closer to the curbs, the city said. The digging of forts which could collapse, or slipping down from snow banks into traffic are potential hazards, the city said.

METRO CALGARY

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Province reversing Alberta Hospital supply cuts

The Alberta government is reversing a policy change that would have seen toiletries and snacks taken away from mental health patients at Alberta Hospital. The policy was part of an implementation plan to standardize supplies across the province and was supposed to save Alberta Health Services $70,000 a year. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mover fatally crushed between two vans

A 60-year-old employee of a moving company has been killed after being pinned between two large vans.

The accident happened Saturday afternoon in a quiet neighbourhood in Beaumont, just south of Edmonton.

A significant snowfall overnight left roads slushy and witnesses say one of the moving trucks became stuck.

The man was hooking up a chain between the two vehicles so one could pull the other one free when the stuck van suddenly lurched forward.

He was crushed between the vehicles.

Police say it's believed the man who was killed was related to his co-worker on the two-man crew.

People living in the neighbourhood were stunned by the accident.

"I just can't believe that someone is gone today," said Shanelle Goudreau. "It's shocking."

Occupational Health and Safety will be conducting an investigating.

Beaumont is just south of Edmonton, roughly two kilometres outside the city boundary.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Union taking legal action against health authorities

One of Saskatchewan's major health-care unions is taking its fight against the province's essential services legislation to the next level. The Service Employees International Union is taking legal action against four of the province's regional health authorities. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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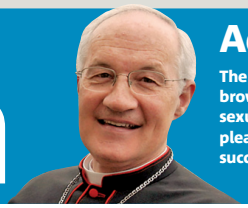

Ad taken out to explain sex assaults

The brother of Quebec's Roman Catholic archbishop, Cardinal Marc Ouellet, left, is raising eyebrows in la belle province after he took out a newspaper ad on the weekend to explain past sexual assaults involving minors, CBC News Online is reporting. In the ad, Paul Ouellet says he pleaded guilty to charges of sexual assault to end the ordeal, and claims his only mistake was succumbing to "advances" made by his two young victims. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ministers met with Red Cross boss in '06

Three federal cabinet ministers and a senior government official met the head of the International Red Cross in the fall of 2006 as the humanitarian organization tried to focus Canada's attention on alleged abuses in Afghan prisons, The Canadian Press has learned.

Precisely what Jakob Kellenberger told Peter MacKay, Gordon O'Connor, Stockwell Day and Robert Greenhill, then the president of the Canadian International Development Agency, in the Sept. 26, 2006 meetings is blanketed by diplomatic secrecy.

MacKay was then Foreign Affairs minister, O'Connor was at Defence and Day was Public Safety minister overseeing Corrections Canada officers in Kandahar.

While the details of the meeting are secret, enough was said about Afghanistan to generate a report from MacKay's office a month later which flagged the Red Cross president's concerns.

The contents of the report, one of thousands of documents filed in the Military Police Complaints Commission investigation of torture allegations, are censored.

The email was titled: "Re: meeting with ICRC president re detention issues."

The fact the Red Cross meetings took place raises further questions about what the federal government knew and the kind of warnings they received in those critical early months. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Red Cross

- The Red Cross is bound by international convention not to discuss with other countries what it saw in Afghan prisons. But it could drop broad hints, as officials did at two meetings with Canadian officials in Kandahar in May and June 2006.

Ontario South Korean carries flame

DARREN CALABRESE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

World figure skating champion Kim Yu-Na of South Korea carries the Olympic flame in Hamilton, Ont., on Saturday.

Tories scrambling to get pavilion up

OLYMPICS The Conservative government is in an 11th hour scramble to put together a national pavilion at the Vancouver Olympics, even though it was advised for years by bureaucrats and partners that it should take advantage of the Winter Games to promote Canada to the world.

Insiders say it's all part of a penny-pinching approach the Tories have taken to leveraging the Olympics for economic gain. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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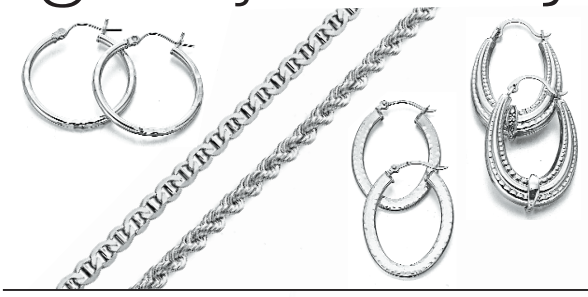

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Women's bookstore struggling to stay open

Nearly two decades after almost being destroyed in a firebombing, the Toronto Women's Bookstore is once again fighting for its survival. Earlier this week, the 36-year-old bookseller issued a desperate plea to its patrons, revealing that financially it was "in crisis" and needed funds urgently to stay open. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Mousehunt trapping millions of fans

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It's a land of serene meadows and mayhem, of calm clearings and dusty catacombs infested by clever little critters that may rob you blind or give you buckets of gold.

It's the magical world of Mousehunt and it exists in a spartan second-floor office in Oakville, Ont., where computer wizards and artists have developed a Facebook game played by nearly two million people around the world.

It's a tongue-in-cheek nation centred in the Town of Gnawnia, where players help the king rid the kingdom of mice in all shapes and sizes. The king even pays players an hourly wage in gold, which they use to buy cheese and traps, which will get them even more gold as they rise through the hunter ranks.

Some traps smash mice to smithereens. Others assault them with loud music or drop them into a bottomless grave. There are even humane traps that fling mice into a fantasy world of endless cheese.

You don't have to spend a dime to play Mousehunt, but players can buy online Super Brie, which attracts mice better than the ordinary cheddar, gouda or special blends that players can craft themselves.

"We're really in the business of selling pretend cheese," says Joel Augé, 31-year-old CEO of Hitgrab, the company that runs Mousehunt and a new game called Mythmonger.

"We're purveyors of fine digital cheese," he adds with a laugh.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

JIM WILKES/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Hitgrab CEO Joel Augé.

MPs ask Harper to let ex-KGB agent stay

SANCTUARY A pair of B.C. politicians are appealing to Prime Minister Stephen Harper to act in the spirit of Christmas and allow a former KGB agent who's taken sanctuary in a church to stay in Canada.

Mikhail Lennikov

Mikhail Lennikov has lived in a Vancouver church since the government denied his application to stay in the country six months ago, though he's resided with his wife and son here for 12 years.

MPs Ujjal Dosanjh and Don Davies stood beside the man yesterday and made the public request to grant the 49-year-old permanent residence.

Lennikov has repeatedly said his work in the 1980s as a translator for the Soviet security agency was innocuous and commenced under pressure.

Last week, he produced 3,500 pages of documents from government departments in an attempt to show there is nothing to back up claims he is a national security threat.

Border officials have so far respected a convention not to enter the church and arrest Lennikov, who says he's unsure how long his stay will last.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Maritimes hit by winter storm

WEATHER A storm system swept into the Maritimes yesterday, prompting snowfall and blowing snow warnings for much of southern Nova Scotia.

Environment Canada said six counties in the province — Digby, Yarmouth, Shelburne, Lunenburg, Halifax and Queens — were expecting 15 to 25 centimetres of snow. There were also blowing snow warnings for those counties, making for treacherous driving in near zero visibility.

Lesser amounts of snow were expected in northern Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and New Brunswick.

The snow started before noon in southwestern Nova Scotia and had stretched eastward into the Halifax area by late afternoon.

There were numerous flight delays at Halifax Stanfield International Airport, along with several cancellations. "The current weather conditions are impacting a lot of flights," said Ashley Barnes, a spokeswoman for the airport authority.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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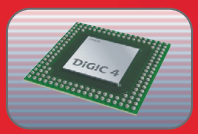

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Prices effective December 11 2009 to January 3 2010. While quantities last.

Bus to Toronto from New York crashes
Forty people were stranded for hours yesterday after their bus from New York City to Toronto crashed near Buffalo. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Afghans take charge

Operation tests Canadian-trained troops

The harsh sound of the national anthem blasting over the Afghan countryside on the weekend left little doubt that a new battle for one of the most dangerous districts of southern Afghanistan had been joined in earnest.

As Canadian soldiers turned up the volume on the portable speaker and two American Kiowa helicopters twisted and turned overhead, Canadian-mentored Afghan soldiers swept through the village of Chahar Bagh.

Scores of freshly arrived U.S. troops — ultimately under Canadian command — provided firepower support.

Without subtlety, Operation Eagle had landed, marking several firsts.

The daylong sweep of Chahar Bagh was the first time the Canadian-mentored battalion of Afghan soldiers — known as 3rd Kandak — had planned and executed a major operation.

"If they succeed, it means we have done our jobs."
Maj. Andrew Vivian

It was also the first time the 2-508 unit of the U.S. 82nd Airborne had deployed in Canada's new area of operations.

Arghandab is prized by the Taliban insurgency as a key entrance to Kandahar city just to the south.

Maj. Andrew Vivian, who heads the unit of Canadian mentors for 3rd Kandak, admitted feeling like a teacher whose students are about to take an important exam.

"Ultimately, we succeed when the ANA are out flourishing on their own," Vivian said."If they succeed, it means we have done our jobs."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

PQ raps Charest on climate talks

Prime Minister Stephen Harper isn't the only one being criticized for his performance at last week's climate talks in Copenhagen.

The Parti Quebecois lashed out at Quebec Premier Jean Charest yesterday, accusing him of failing to represent the interests of Quebecers on the world stage.

PQ opposition environment critic Scott McKay said despite Charest's criticism of the federal government in the national press, he remained mute with delegates from other nations.

"We would have expected the premier of Quebec to take a strong stance against (Prime Minister Stephen) Harper in front of international delegates," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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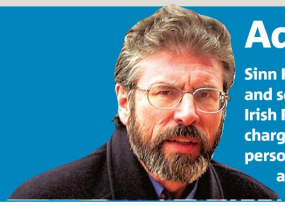
Deadly earthquake strikes Africa
A strong earthquake destroyed several buildings in the African nation of Malawi yesterday, killing at least three people and injuring about 200, a government official said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

World



Adams says father abused his family

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams, left, says his late father was a man who emotionally, physically and sexually abused members of his family. Adams' disclosure comes as the president of the Irish Republican Army-linked party calls on his brother Liam to surrender to police to answer charges that he abused his daughter. Adams says that he has no recollection of being personally abused and did not go into detail about the allegations. Gerry Adams Sr., a former IRA prisoner, died in 2003. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel admits it harvested organs

Israel has admitted that in the 1990s, its forensic pathologists harvested organs from dead bodies, including Palestinians, without permission of their families.

The issue emerged with publication of an interview with the then-head of Israel's Abu Kabir forensic institute, Dr. Jehuda Hiss.

The interview was conducted in 2000 by an American academic, who released it because of a huge controversy last summer over an allegation by a Swedish newspaper that Israel was killing Palestinians in order to harvest their organs. Israel hotly denied the charge. Parts of the interview were broadcast on Israel's Channel 2 TV over the weekend. In it, Hiss said, "We started to harvest corneas ... Whatever was done was highly informal. No permission was asked from the family."

In a response to the TV report, the Israeli military confirmed that the practice took place. "This activity ended a decade ago and does not happen any longer," the military said in a statement quoted by Channel 2. In the interview, Hiss described how his doctors would mask the removal of corneas from bodies. "We'd glue the eyelid shut," he said. "We wouldn't take corneas from families we knew would open the eyelids."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Settlers enraged by slowdown plan

- Israeli authorities could soon use special commando units, unmanned spy planes and cellphone-jamming equipment to enforce a moratorium on new settlement construction in the West Bank, military officials said yesterday, deepening a showdown between the government and Jewish settlers. Enraged settlers vowed to resist the plan, prompting Defence Minister Ehud Barak to warn they would face the full wrath of the military if they continue to flout the 10-month slowdown.

Pakistan **Heightened security**

MOHAMMAD SAJJAD/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pakistani women walk past a police officer in the troubled city of Peshawar yesterday. Authorities are taking extra security measures during the Shiite Muslim mourning month of Muharram, as security agencies fear an increased level of violence.

News in brief

NEW YORK Bicyclists who planned to go topless to protest the removal of a Brooklyn bike lane switched gears Saturday, pinning plastic breasts to their jackets as they rolled into a snowstorm. Dozens of bikers joined a protest called the "Freedom Ride" to oppose the removal of the bike path.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leaders defend accord

Go Green

CLIMATE CHANGE China, the world's largest emitter of greenhouse gases, lauded yesterday the outcome of a historic UN climate conference that ended with a non-binding agreement that urges major polluters to make deeper emissions cuts — but does not require it.

Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi said the international climate talks that brought more than 110 leaders together in Copenhagen produced "significant and positive" results.

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ScanLife

As international pressure mounts on the U.S. to curb its emissions, natural gas is emerging as an unlikely solution. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

The U.S. Obama administration yesterday also defended the agreement as a "great step forward" — despite widespread disappointment among environmentalists that the pact does not include mandatory targets that would draw sanctions.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Runaway sailor found

Dekker

ST. MAARTEN Police tracked down 14-year-old Dutch sailor Laura Dekker in the Caribbean territory of St. Maarten, days after she ran away from home leaving her boat behind, Dutch media reported yesterday.

Dekker made headlines around the world earlier this year when she unsuccessfully went to court as a 13-year-old to fight for the right to set off on a single-handed circumnavigation of the world in her boat, Guppy. St. Maarten is part of the Netherlands Antilles, a group of self-governing Caribbean islands.

Earlier yesterday, Dutch police spokesman Bernhard Jens said authorities issued an international alert after Dekker was reported missing Friday.

"We do not believe this is a crime," Jens said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dozens killed in Nigerian crash
At least 55 people died and 38 others were injured when a truck carrying bags of fertilizer slammed into a market in central Nigeria. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Bill almost there

U.S. Senate health-care reforms on track for passage

U.S. Senate Democrats pushed toward a critical vote to advance historic health-care reform legislation as outnumbered Republicans pledged a fight to the end against President Barack Obama's top domestic policy priority.

On Saturday, jubilant Senate Democrats announced they had locked in the 60th and decisive vote needed to overcome Republican stalling tactics. That came from moderate Democratic Sen. Ben Nelson of Nebraska, the last holdout in their caucus, who declared his support for revised legislation crafted by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid.

That put the bill firmly on a path for Christmas Eve passage.

To keep the process moving under Senate rules, Democrats will need to show 60 votes in a series of votes. The first — and most critical — test vote on a cloture motion to end debate on the bill was set for about a 1 a.m. debate.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona, Obama's opponent in last year's election, said there was probably nothing to keep Democrats from passing the bill by Christmas Eve.

Still, he said, Republicans would not relent in the battle for public opinion.

"We'll fight the good fight. We will fight until the last vote," said McCain. He said the political climate under Obama has become more partisan than ever.

A senior adviser to Obama criticized Republican senators yesterday for trying to halt final action, saying the American people deserve a vote.

"The Republican party has spent a month engaged in parliamentary manoeuvers and dilatory tactics to try and prevent a vote," David Axelrod, the Obama adviser, told ABC's This Week.

"It represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago."
U.S. Vice-President Joe Biden in an editorial in yesterday's New York Times

Vice-President Joe Biden wrote in The New York Times yesterday that senators should support the bill because "it represents the culmination of a struggle begun by (President) Theodore Roosevelt nearly a century ago" to improve health care.

"I would vote yes for this bill certain that it includes the fundamental, essential change that opponents of reform have resisted for generations," he wrote.

The United States is the only wealthy industrialized nation that does not have universal health coverage. Health insurance in the U.S. is provided primarily by employers, but the ranks of the uninsured have been growing due to job losses in the recent recession.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Macau **Tenth anniversary of Chinese rule**

KIN CHEUNG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Demonstrators march through Macau on the 10th anniversary of the former Portuguese territory's return to Chinese rule yesterday. Demonstrators called for greater economic equity, an end to corruption and the right to elect the territory's leader, currently appointed by Beijing.

Weather wreaking havoc in Europe

EUROPE Snowstorms and subfreezing temperatures have battered Europe, killing 29 people in Poland alone and wreaking havoc on air, train and car travellers from the Nordics to Italy on the last weekend before Christmas.

France's civil aviation authority ordered the cancellation of 40 per cent of flights out of Paris' Charles de Gaulle and Orly airports yesterday through mid-afternoon. Flights at Manchester Airport, Britain's busiest outside the London area, resumed after its only runway was briefly closed for snow clearance.

There was trouble on the railways too, with trains from Belgium to Italy delayed by icy, frozen tracks.

Eurostar trains through the Channel Tunnel weren't running yesterday as officials tried to pinpoint the problem that led four trains to come to a halt in the tunnel linking England and France, leaving passengers stranded for hours Saturday.

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Comment

Stay in control on roads

Regardless of how good we've been, in his travels through Calgary, Santa won't be delivering a comprehensive snow clearing program — not this year. In fact, we're probably a long way from the kind of overhaul most drivers want to see, so we would be wise to improve our game in the interim.

Council has only approved $2 million for extra snow clearing machinery and a $1-million pilot project that will look at outsourcing residential clearing. That brings our snow clearing budget up to $27 million, still much less than Edmonton's $50 million. The forecast is clear — more sketchy days ahead on city streets.

While the city may be on the hook for humble snow clearing, it's Calgary drivers who are on the hook for bad driving. I'm guessing accidents would be cut in half if inexperienced and insecure winter drivers parked for the season. Alternately, these drivers could become roadworthy with a winter driving course.

"Winter driving requires extra skills — skid recovery, traction control and emergency manoeuvres. Not every driver is up to the task."

Winter driving requires extra skills — skid recovery, traction control and emergency manoeuvres. Not every driver is up to the task.

Another group of drivers who might consider parking are those without winter tires. These folks are easy to spot — they're the ones sliding down hills, swerving left to right up ramps and over bridge decks, skating through intersections and clipping the curbs. Auto industry experts agree winter tires reduce collisions.

For us cold-weather warriors, drive by these commandments for Calgary's winter roads. Ensure your vehicle is mechanically sound for sub-zero conditions and drive with no less than a half tank of gas. Stalling out on Crowchild is bad form.

Vision is not overrated, so use your windshield scraper and brush. I'm baffled as to why this needs to be mentioned — most people wouldn't sign on the dotted line if their glasses were fogged, enveloped in ice or covered in snow, but too many will operate a moving vehicle without being able to sufficiently see out of it.

Further, keep the windshield washer fluid topped up, the sunglasses out for the season's low lying sun and turn on the headlights for the early evening sunset.

Back off. We all need a little more space when the roads are slick, so that means increasing the distance between your vehicle and others, and allowing enough time to stop at intersections.

We don't need to be at the mercy of the meteorologists. We need to be in control of our vehicles.

Adrienne Beattie is a Calgary-born writer who has covered urban issues since 2001 and has an English degree from the University of Calgary.

MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Christmas – a lot of assembly required

Today, our final instalment on Prepping for the Holidays:

Sanity: Is it overrated?

Or, all I want for Christmas is a G-17A size 12 Allen key.

After the excitement of Christmas morning comes another traditional holiday event: Assembly Afternoon.

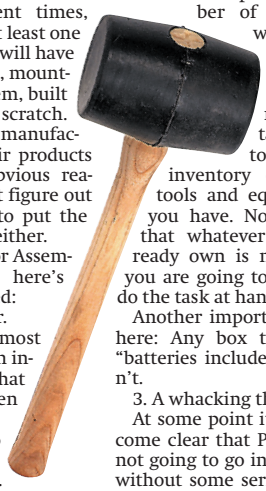
In olden days, Assembly Afternoon did not exist. A ball was a ball. A jump rope was a jump rope. And a quoit and skittle set was ... actually, I have no idea what that was. But the point is, it didn't need to be put together. You got your quoit and your skittle and you were good to go.

Now that we live in more convenient times, it's likely that at least one gift you receive will have to be assembled, mounted or, it may seem, built entirely from scratch. This is because manufacturers ship their products in parts for obvious reasons: They can't figure out how the heck to put the thing together either.

To be ready for Assembly Afternoon, here's what you'll need:

1. A translator.

These days most items come with instructions that have been thoughtfully translated into a wide variety of languages. These may include Klingon, Hobbit and British semaphore, but they will never, ever include whatever language you speak.



2. The home phone number of a hardware store owner.

Before Christmas, take time to do a full inventory of what tools and equipment you have. Now know that whatever you already own is not what you are going to need to do the task at hand.

Another important note here: Any box that says "batteries included," doesn't.

3. A whacking thing.

At some point it will become clear that Piece C is not going to go into Slot A without some serious persuasion. Excellent whacking things I have used include Nutcracker dolls and that extra piece that didn't seem to fit anywhere. Tip: Do not use your spouse's new BlackBerry. Trust me on this one.

4. Assistance.

While most assembly efforts are one-person jobs, it's traditional to have someone on hand to provide helpful comments such as, "That's not how I'd do it," and "Too bad you have to do that or you could be having a drink like me." While it's not OK to use the whacking thing on this person, it is perfectly acceptable to give them a gift next year that comes in a ka-gillion pieces.

Wishing you all a happy holiday and joyous Assembly Afternoon!

Anne Hines is an author and humour writer. She has written three novels and one collection of nonfiction humour.

Worth mentioning

Eco-friendly shopping may lead to bad habits: Study

Buying green may help save the planet, but a new study suggests it might also make you more prone to cheat, steal, and be selfish.

In a paper to be published in an upcoming issue of the journal Psychological Science, University of Toronto researchers Nina Mazar and Chen-Bo Zhong studied how students behaved after being given the option of purchasing environmentally friendly products, like organic yogurt or biodegradable laundry detergent, or conventional items.

They found students who chose green products were less likely to act altruistically afterwards than those who were simply exposed to green products.

The study, said Mazar, an assistant professor of marketing with the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management, builds on research into the idea of "moral regulation" — that people either consciously or unconsciously balance bad deeds with good ones.

Purchasing habits

- While the findings might deflate the self-righteous air of those who brag about bringing canvas bags to the grocery store, researcher Nina Mazar says it definitely shouldn't be seen as a condemnation of environmentally friendly purchasing habits.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

We Know What You're Thinking

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Workers awarded $100M in BP lawsuit

A federal jury Friday awarded more than $100 million US to 10 workers who claimed they were injured in 2007 when a toxic substance was released at BP PLC's Texas City plant. The jurors in Galveston, about 80 kilometres southeast of Houston, gave each contract worker $10 million in punitive damages. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

DOLLAR	N.GAS	OIL	TSX
US 93.81¢	US $5.78	US $74.42	11,463.40
(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)	(Friday's close)

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Market volatility expected this week

Stock markets are expected to remain volatile in the shortened trading week ahead of Christmas, as investors clean up their books before the start of the new year.

Motivation will come from turbulent commodity prices which proved especially unpredictable last week as the U.S. dollar bounced around in value.

Motivation from commodities

- Last week, the Iraqi government said that an oil well had been taken over by a group of armed Iranians, which sent the February crude contract up slightly in the final hours of trading. Shares in Potash Corp. of Saskatchewan lost six per cent of their value. And gold prices have also logged several sessions of turbulence over the past week.

Traders will also be making last-minute trades in order to meet the tax-loss trading deadline for the year.

"There's a whole bunch of conflicted forces at work," said John Johnston, chief strategist at the Harbour Group at RBC Dominion Securities. "The U.S. economy is showing pretty decisive indications that it's in an economic recovery, but a very slow one."

Markets will operate on a regular schedule until Christmas Eve, when they close at 1 p.m. EST on both sides of the border and will reopen Boxing Day.

Economists and observers have predicted trading this month would be relatively muted compared with previous years partly because the TSX rallied in early November to a high for the year and since then many traders have taken time off for the holidays. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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After ending a border dispute with Iran, Iraq's rebuilding oil industry moves toward developing a lucrative oilfield. Scan this barcode for the article or go to metronews.ca/world

Challenges are in BlackBerry's future: Analysts

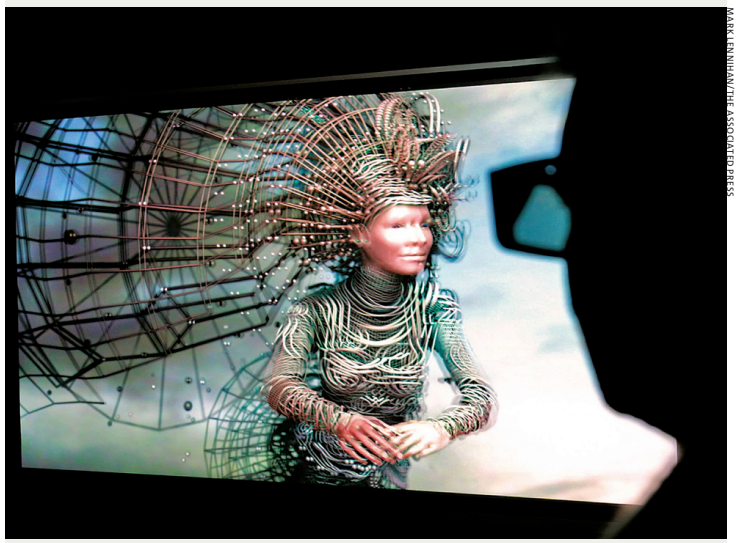
TECH The BlackBerry faces more competition in the consumer market, especially in North America, and its entry into China will have challenges, analysts say.

Fresh from a gain of more than 10 per cent on Friday and after beating profit expectations, Research In Motion faced questions about if it can maintain such growth.

Pacific Crest analyst James Faucette believes the company's 2010 financial year could be RIM's earnings peak, while PC Magazine analyst Sascha Segan said BlackBerrys are starting to look a bit dull and "definitely need a facelift" to appeal to more consumers.

"RIM's devices are popular, reliable, successful, but they've had less and less mind share over the past six months as the iPhone and Android have really grown as phenomena," Segan said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New York **Larger than life**



MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A visitor to Stereo Exchange in New York over the weekend wears 3-D glasses to view a demonstration of Digital Projection's Titan 1080p 3-D projector on a three-metre screen. The English company is marketing the 3-D systems to high-end home users and the military.

Business in brief

BIOMASS A debate is brewing between the Nova Scotia government, focus groups and environmentalists over the sustainability of harvesting trees and burning low-grade wood to meet the province's energy needs. This energy source, known as biomass, has been used in Europe for years and, on a small scale, in many Canadian provinces. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FAILED BANKS U.S. regulators have shut down two big California banks, Imperial Capital Bank of La Jolla and First Federal Bank of California, bringing to 140 the number of U.S. banks brought down this year by the weak economy. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dutch carmaker makes another offer for Saab

AUTO In a final attempt to rescue Saab Automobile AB, Dutch automaker Spyker Cars submitted a new offer yesterday to buy the Swedish brand from General Motors Co.

Spyker said it has submitted a new 11-point proposal to GM, addressing the issues that made talks collapse earlier this week.

GM on Friday said it would wind down Saab because issues arose during the sales talks with Spyker that could not be resolved, and the window of time to complete a deal was small.

Spyker CEO Victor Muller said he hoped the new offer would make GM change its mind.

"We are very confident that our renewed offer will remove the impasse that was standing in the way of an agreement on Friday, and this would still allow us to conclude the deal prior to the expiry of the deadline originally set by GM of Dec. 31," he said in a statement.

Muller said the new offer removes a demand that a loan from the European Investment Bank to Saab be approved before the end of the year. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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American pika losing its home

Faced with global warming, many creatures will migrate to cooler latitudes — but the American pika can't do that because its habitat in North America is currently restricted to small, disconnected habitat 'islands' in numerous mountain ranges. **WWF**

Going Green

Give the Earth a gift

With only a few shopping days left, TD Friends of the Environment Foundation has launched a new e-gift available at tdfef.com/egift. One hundred per cent of every donation will support grassroots environment and wildlife projects across Canada. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: BEN.RYCROFT@METRONEWS.CA

Kevin Wall is leading the fight for fresh water.

Water supply in danger?

ERICK TAPIA
Metro World News

On Apr. 18 next year thousands of people across the world will run 6km — the average distance women and children walks to find water in drought-hit parts of Africa.

The Dow Live Earth Run for Water is the brainchild of Live Earth's CEO Kevin Wall and is aimed at raising awareness of what he believes is be the key global crisis, lack of drinking water.

He spoke to Metro:

Q Is the planet's fresh water in danger?

A Well the planet is full of water but the reserve of drinkable water is actually getting smaller and more polluted.

If you go to the drought areas of Africa the rivers are dry.

Women and children will walk 6 kms to get basic drinking water.

Q Do you think that humanity will solve the water problem?

A I hope that corporations, governments and individuals will find a solution. It will take major corporations to change the way they do business and their water usage, it will take Governments to continue to push forward to find a better policy as global citizens.

Q What sort of actions are being taken around the world?

A There are different actions in different parts of the world. In the United States and Europe you turn on the tap and the water comes out so here we need to look at major conservation efforts and conserve this precious resource. But it is different in other parts of the world — in some parts it may be activism, in others it may be actually drilling water wells.

China using pig power

Village becomes model for renewable energy with bio-fuel

ANN-AËL DURAND
Metro World News

The inhabitants of Cao Tian Da, in the Chinese province of Yunnan, cook and heat their homes with pig excrement — an example of transition towards new energies encouraged by China.

The signs painted along the road state it clearly: Cao Tian Da is a "model village for renewable energy." This 140-inhabitant hamlet, in the mountains of Yunnan, seems traditional, with red-clay houses, corn ears hung for drying, and chickens running in the courtyard. But in the streets, public lamps are equipped with solar panels.

On the roof, brand-new solar heaters are glittering, and on the whitewashed walls, crude paintings explain how to use the new energy: bio-gas, made from pig feces.

"It is very convenient," explains Wan Qin, in her new kitchen.

The young peasant opens a tap and activates a gas stove — much better than her old fireplace.

"Before, I had to collect firewood in the mountain, with my baby on my back. Now, I am relieved. We also have hot water with the heater."

Her electricity bill has been reduced by half, and the forest is preserved. An important issue for these families: their village has been moved by the authorities for environmental reasons linked with deforestation.

The gas in Wan Qin kitchen is freely provided by an industrial pigsty, 1 km away. The company, Hui Jian, strongly subsidized by the local authorities, keeps the excrement of its 2,000 pigs in big manure pits — 250 cubic metres per day, which ferment and produce methane.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Pig feces is used to create bio-gas which powers these homes.

45 In China, 45 per cent of the population still live in the countryside. China has become a bigger greenhouse gas issuer in the last two years. It is one of the most polluted countries, suffering from acid rains, desertification and water contamination.

The industrial pigsty keeps the excrement of 2,000 pigs, which is used to create a bio gas that powers the nearby village.

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Road salts doing lasting damage

Every year, approximately 5 million tonnes of road salts are used by municipalities across Canada to melt the snow and ice on roads, sidewalks, parks, and bridges.

Chloride-based ice melters were declared "toxic" in an extensive five year joint assessment report done by Health Canada and Environment Canada published in 2001. As we experience the first snow fall of the season, we must reduce our use of these toxic pollutants. Ice melters have many affects:

1. Contaminates Groundwater

While killing vegetation and intoxicating soil, road salts find their way into the water table and thereby contaminating our freshwater supply.

2. Corrosion to Infrastructure:

Concrete spalling and rust on steel reinforcements can reduce the stability of structures

3. Harms Pets:

Cats and dogs can become quite ill by ingesting road salts when licking their paws.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Athletics close to signing Crisp

The Oakland Athletics are close to agreeing with free-agent outfielder Coco Crisp on a one-year contract with a club option for the 2011 season. A person with knowledge of the negotiations confirmed an impending deal on condition of anonymity. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Sports

Williams sets record

Miami running back Ricky Williams reached 1,000 yards rushing for this season on his fifth carry yesterday against Tennessee, setting an NFL record for the longest span between 1,000-yard seasons at six years. This marks the fifth 1,000-yard rushing season of his career. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

Grieving Bengals fall to Chargers

NFL

Bengals 24 Chargers 27

BENGALS AT CHARGERS

Nate Kaeding kicked a 52-yard field goal with three seconds left and the playoff-bound San Diego Chargers pulled out a dramatic 27-24 win over the grieving Cincinnati Bengals yesterday.

The winning kick came after Philip Rivers moved the Chargers 46 yards in 51 seconds with no timeouts and backup centre Dennis Norman snapping after Scott Mruckzkowski was injured.

A few minutes after the final gun, the Chargers clinched their fourth straight AFC West title when Denver lost 20-19 to Oakland.

San Diego (11-3) won its ninth straight game and clinched a playoff spot before halftime because of other results. The Bolts improved to 17-0 in December dating to 2006.

The Bengals (9-5) failed for the second straight week to clinch the AFC North.

Cincinnati was playing its first game since the death of receiver Chris Henry on Thursday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Playoff picture

- San Diego, Arizona and Minnesota clinched division titles yesterday, while Philadelphia surged into the playoffs as at least a wild card.

LENNY IGNELZI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Cincinnati Bengals linebacker Dhani Jones, left, and safety Chinedum Ndukwe sack San Diego Chargers quarterback Philip Rivers yesterday in San Diego.

Sports in brief

ENGLAND Frank Lampard drove home a twice retaken penalty against his former club as Chelsea came from behind to draw 1-1 at West Ham on yesterday to move four points ahead at the top of the Premier League. Birmingham's five-game winning streak ended with a 1-1 draw at Everton where Alex McLeish's team had to come from behind to get a point, while Wolves moved out of the relegation zone with a 2-0 win over Burnley.

FORMULA ONE Italian organizers say a deal has been signed with Formula One chief Bernie Ecclestone to stage a Rome Grand Prix on the streets of Italy's capital. Course planner Maurizio Flammini told Sky Italia yesterday that an agreement with Ecclestone "has already been done and signed" but did not say when the first Rome GP might be held. The 2010 F1 calendar has already been set. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NFL encourages players to donate their brains to research program

The NFL is partnering with Boston University brain researchers who have been critical of the league's stance on concussions, The Associated Press learned yesterday.

The league now plans to encourage current and former NFL players to agree to donate their brains to the Boston University Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, which has said it found links between repeated head trauma and brain damage in boxers, football players and, most recently, a former NHL player.

"It's huge that the NFL actively gets behind this research," said Robert Cantu, a co-director of the BU centre who has spoken negatively about the league in the past. "It forwards the research. It allows players to realize the NFL is concerned about the possibility that they could have this problem, and that the NFL is doing everything it can to find out about the risks and the preventive strategies that can be implemented."

NFL spokesman Greg Aiello told the AP yesterday that the league also is committed to giving $1 million US or more to the centre.

"The precise amount hasn't been determined," Aiello said.

"We will discuss it with them. It depends on their needs. We are committed to funding research" on brain injuries.

Robert Stern, an associate professor of neurology at the Boston University School of Medicine and one of Cantu's co-directors of the centre, said the group is pleased that the NFL is playing a role.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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SCOREBOARD

NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 3 Detroit 0
St. Louis 3 Vancouver 1

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Montreal 3 N.Y. Islanders 0
Ottawa 4 Minnesota 1
Toronto 2 Boston 0
Nashville 5 CALGARY 3
Washington 4 Edmonton 2
Anaheim 4 Phoenix 2
Carolina 3 Florida 2
Colorado 5 Columbus 2
Dallas 4 Detroit 3
New Jersey 5 Atlanta 4
N.Y. Rangers 2 Philadelphia 1
Pittsburgh 2 Buffalo 1 (SO)

TODAY'S GAMES

Buffalo at Toronto, 5 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Islanders, 5 p.m.
Florida at Philadelphia, 5 p.m.
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina, 5 p.m.
Montreal at Atlanta, 5 p.m.
Boston at Ottawa, 5:30 p.m.
New Jersey at Pittsburgh, 5:30 p.m.
Colorado at Minnesota, 6 p.m.
San Jose at Dallas, 6:30 p.m.
St. Louis at Edmonton, 7 p.m.
Columbus at Phoenix, 7 p.m.

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Toronto 98 New Orleans 92
Boston 122 Minnesota 104
L.A. Lakers 93 Detroit 81
Memphis 102 Denver 96
Portland 102 Miami 95
New York 98 Charlotte 94
Dallas 102 Cleveland 95

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 101 Atlanta 98 (OT)
Houston 95 Oklahoma City 90
L.A. Clippers 112 Philadelphia 107 (OT)
L.A. Lakers 103 New Jersey 84
Orlando 92 Portland 83
Phoenix 121 Washington 95
San Antonio 100 Indiana 99
Sacramento 96 Milwaukee 95
Utah 110 Charlotte 102

TODAY'S GAMES

Milwaukee at Indiana, 5 p.m.
Utah at Orlando, 5 p.m.
Sacramento at Chicago, 6 p.m.
L.A. Clippers at San Antonio, 6:30 p.m.
Cleveland at Phoenix, 7 p.m.

NFL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

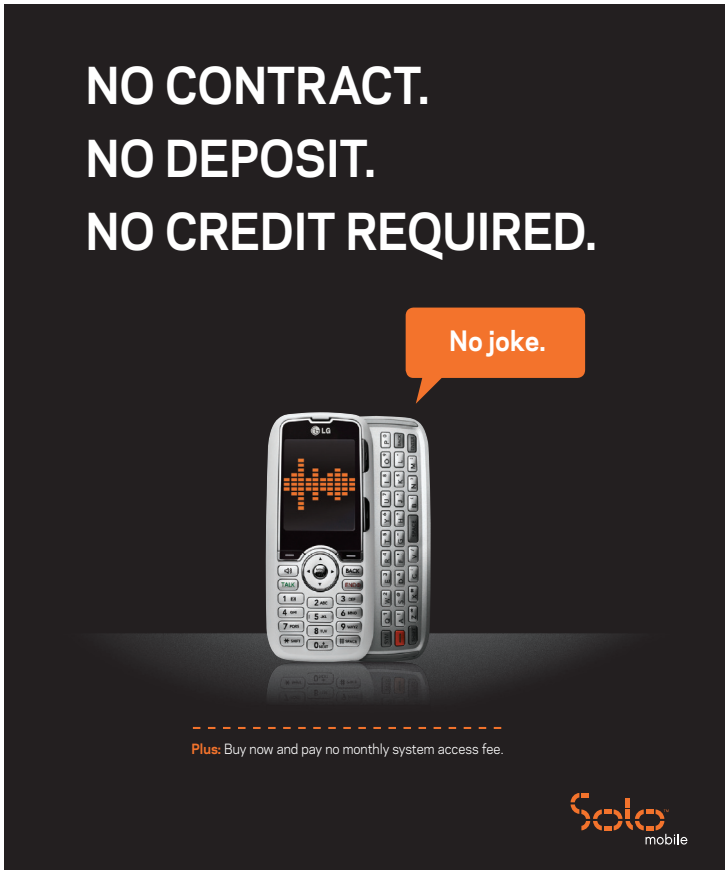
Tennessee 27 Miami 24 (OT)
Arizona 31 Detroit 24
Atlanta 10 N.Y. Jets 7
Houston 16 St. Louis 13
New England 17 Buffalo 10
Cleveland 41 Kansas City 34
Oakland 20 Denver 19
San Diego 27 Cincinnati 24
Baltimore 31 Chicago 7
Tampa Bay 24 Seattle 7
Pittsburgh 37 Green Bay 36
Philadelphia 27 San Francisco 13
Carolina 26 Minnesota 7

SATURDAY'S RESULTS

Dallas 24 New Orleans 17

TODAY'S GAME

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 6:30 p.m.



'Bait laptop' program curbing computer thefts at SFU

Simon Fraser University is crediting a new program for reducing computer thefts at its Burnaby campus by over 30 per cent. Alarm-rigged laptops are placed around the campus library and are set off if picked up, alerting security personnel. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Workology

New site for N.S. university

The University of King's College has a new-look website. The site describes the Halifax-based institution as a "tightly-knit and extraordinarily lively academic community." On the site, visitors will find testimonials from past students, recent Twitter posts, event listings and news headlines. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

A Santa suit dresses up a third career

OddJobs

Diane Peters

Metronews.ca/oddjobs

There are few jobs that value a mature complexion, white beard and a somewhat stocky body type. But if you look the part, playing Santa like Bob McTavish does on a regular basis is a great job.

McTavish, 67, got his first gig as Santa five years ago when organizers of a Christmas party in Bala, near his home in Ontario's Muskoka region, needed someone last minute.

Word soon got around that McTavish "does Santa," and it took off from there.

This, of course, is not his first career. He started off in business, and worked in senior management for a various retail chains. Twenty years ago, he left corporate life and started up his own real estate brokerage for business clients.

Eight years ago, he moved from Toronto to Muskoka, renovated his dad's old cottage and was reconsidering his career options — the real estate business was slowing down — when the Santa work started.

"I was looking for something to take up the slack," says McTavish.

The jobs working parties and parades fit his schedule: it takes up much of the early winter while real estate gets busy in the spring.

In between, he swims, snowmobiles, travels and goes to the theatre.

Two years ago, he got a big break. One of the Santas at Santa's Village in Bracebridge passed away. McTavish now spends his summers there — and probably will for years to come.

PHOTOS SUBMITTED

Bob McTavish dons his Santa suit to entertain the crowds.

"I'm reasonably young. I know another fellow who's 86 and he's been doing it for 16 years. This is a long term position."

This year, McTavish began working in malls. "I'm developing my Santa business just like I developed my real estate business."

It's harder work than parties and parades: the days are long and often run late (McTavish likes to rise early so he's beat by 8 p.m.).

And, surprisingly, his business experience helps with his new job. "I was trained in retail where I learned you have to treat the customer with incredible respect."

He often spoke in front of crowds for his job and he doesn't get stage fright.

At parties, he roams the room chatting with kids and adults, making sure everyone's happy. For parades (where he wears good quality long underwear), it's the most fun when he has a mike and can chat with the crowd.

At the village and at malls, it's all about one-on-one chats with kids, getting them to talk about what they want, what they're interested in, and getting into casual chats about cookies, Mrs. Claus and reindeer.

Diane Peters once hawked magic pens at the Canadian National Exhibition. She's now a writer and part-time journalism instructor.

The Lowdown

Job title: Santa Claus
Salary: $250 to $500 a day or event
Education/training: There are a few Santa schools in North America, but he learned on the job.
Best Part of the Job: "Individual people, not always kids, who react with their eyes to you. You know someone is taking pleasure from what you're doing."
Worst Part of the Job: "Families who push kids beyond the point they should be pushed."

Shifting from co-worker to Facebook friend

It is one of the most socially awkward situations at the office.

You're talking to your boss or co-worker, when they casually ask to be your friend on Facebook.

You quickly think of the juicy comments posted on your wall, or that photo of you gulping margaritas in a bathing suit. Within seconds, you have to decide between saying 'yes' or finding a way to decline the offer without hurting anyone's feelings (or your chance at a promotion).

It has happened regularly to a 28-year-old public relations worker in Winnipeg we'll call Nathalie. She doesn't want her real name used for obvious reasons.

"Your boss doesn't need to see what you're doing on the weekend," she said.

"There are lines and there are boundaries. The only co-workers that are my Facebook friends are people that would be hanging out with me."

The workplace is gaining more of a presence on Facebook, MySpace and other social networking sites. Companies are starting to see value in having a presence on Web 2.0. Many have set up corporate Facebook pages and have let employees know that they can become fans — an action that can make your Facebook page more visible to co-workers.

But should you feel obliged to open your social network page to coworkers?

"It might be prudent to promote collegial relations or to curry favour with the boss by socializing with them ... but you certainly have no obligation to," said Arthur Schafer, a professor at the University of Manitoba's Centre for Professional and Applied Ethics,

Adding co-workers as Facebook friends has its issues.

Facebook has added new privacy options recently, allowing users to hide individual posts or pictures from specific friends. Of course, even if no one at work can see your Facebook page, they can still find out what's on it. It happened earlier this year to a twenty-something woman we'll call Susan, who also doesn't want her name used.

Susan was upset with what she felt was a lack of security and cleanliness at a community event in Winnipeg. She complained about it on her Facebook page, which is only visible to her 500-odd friends.

As it turns out, one of those friends was an employee of the event's organizers, who are clients of Susan's employer. Word got around and Susan found herself facing a tongue-lashing from her boss.

It raises the question, do employers have the right to discipline workers who slag them, the company or a client in quasi-public areas such as Facebook?

"I would say not, unless it's directly damaging to the company — saying 'This product is fraudulent,' for example," said John Melnyck, who teaches management ethics at the University of Winnipeg's business faculty.

Both professors agree that it is important to remember that anything posted online, even behind strict privacy settings, can make its way into the public sphere.

And that perhaps explains why people are reluctant to open their social networking pages to coworkers or superiors. Melnyck recently conducted an experiment on that front.

He asked students in one of his classes, en masse, to make him a friend on Facebook.

"It was a pretty even split of opinion," Melnyck chuckled. "Some people had no hesitation, other people said 'no way.'"

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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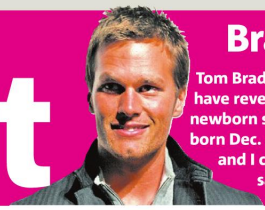
Theron has a new collection
Actress Charlize Theron has launched a new collection of footwear to raise money for impoverished children in her native South Africa. The star debuted her eco-friendly, limited-edition footwear, designed with TOMS Shoes, on Friday. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Entertainment



Brady Bunch
Tom Brady and Giselle Bundchen have revealed the name of their newborn son. Benjamin Brady was born Dec. 8. "Benjamin is a blessing and I could not be happier," Brady said. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

Albums of the decade

METRO CANADA FILE

The Foo Fighters' (frontman Dave Grohl, shown) In Your Honor is one of the albums from the last decade you should own.

GRAHAM ROCKINGHAM
for Metro Canada

It was a decade that started with boy bands and Britney, and ended with Bob Dylan singing Here Comes Santa Claus.

In between, an endless stream of over-produced and under-talented American Idol winners managed to keep the big record labels from drowning in a pool of self-inflicted ennui. Yet, through all of this, we managed to find some exceptionally fine music. And you didn't have to be an indie snob to find it. Here are 10 records from the past 10 years that you can feel good about having in your library.

1. Foo Fighters, In Your Honor (2005): A double album shows the band at its best — plugged in and acoustic. It took on the other big double rock album of the decade — Stadium Arcadium by the Red Hot Chili Peppers — and won. With a string of radio friendly rockers like the Best of You and DOA, this is the album that made the Foo Fighters the top band of the decade.

2. Feist, The Reminder (2007): Some critics would place Feist's debut album, Let It Die, above The Reminder. But let's face it, The Reminder put Feist at a higher level. It's also the album that broke the Canadian songstress internationally. It was hard to get tired of 1234, even with the monster abuse it took on those iPod commercials. These are well-crafted songs, written with style and originality, and sung in a uniquely alluring voice.

3. Coldplay, A Rush of Blood to the Head (2003): This is the album that single-handedly saved EMI from disaster (the delay of the release of the follow-up X&Y actually caused a run on EMI stock). The piano riff on Clocks alone makes this album a must. Coldplay started the decade a U2/Radiohead wannabe and reached 2010 well ahead of both.

4. Outkast, Speakerboxxx/The Love Below (2003): This double album's two huge hits — Hey Ya and The Way You Move — finally broke hip hop through to the mainstream pop charts. At the same time, its retro leanings toward funk and soul (a la Sly and the Family Stone) inevitably spelled the end to the genre as we knew it in the '80s and '90s. Melody became as important as the beat. Enter Kanye, Beyoncé and Rihanna.

5. Arcade Fire, Funeral (2004): Few in Canada were aware of the innovative indie-rock collectives that were thriving in Toronto, Montreal and Vancouver until David Bowie stepped on stage with Arcade Fire at a New York gig in 2005. The world seemed to look at the Canadian indie scene differently after that.

6. Amy Winehouse, Back to Black (2006): Sometimes there's a reason why artists sweep the Grammys the way Amy Winehouse did in 2007. This was simply a very good album. How many people can remember exactly where they were when they first heard Rehab on the radio? It was that special. Winehouse managed to reference four decades of R&B music while still sounding original. This album sparked a British retro-fad with a flurry of young Dusty Springfields finding chart success. None, of course, were anywhere near as interesting as Amy.

7. White Stripes, Elephant (2003): Who would have thought that there was anything left to say in rock 'n' roll until Jack White came along and managed to do what others couldn't with nothing but a drum kit, a guitar and a deft hand in the studio. This album proved that less can, indeed, be more. White has since managed to bring a touch of class to everything he touches, including Loretta Lynn's Portland, the Raconteurs and Dead Weather.

8. Sam Roberts, We Were Born in a Flame (2003): It started with a six-song EP (the Inhuman Condition) that cost the Montreal rocker just $65 to record. Two songs (Don't Walk Away Eileen and Brother Down) broke through on radio after every major label in the country turned them down. The three surprise Junos Sam received made us realize that there was more to Canadian rock 'n' roll than the Tragically Hip and Rush.

9. Kanye West, Graduation (2007): OK, he's a jerk. He's proved that over and over again. But sometimes we have to let reality pass and just listen to the music. Kanye's third album brought everything together and made his tremendous ego a little more bearable.

10. Neil Young, Live at Massey Hall 1971 (2007): Yes, this one doesn't really belong. It's a recording of a concert that happened almost 40 years ago. This spot was originally going to be taken by Ryan Adams' Gold (2001), which had a tremendous impact on a whole new breed of singer-songwriters, taking them back to their roots. Neil, however, is the real deal. He is their roots. And nothing had a bigger impact on young writers than the release of this remarkable concert album.

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Twilight actor dons undies for Calvin Klein
Kellan Lutz is set to become the new face of Calvin Klein. The Twilight Saga: New Moon actor is reportedly being lined up to pose in his underwear for the fashion house. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

Everyone's dancing to Indian pop beat

Music more common on albums of favourite artists, and also responsible for success of Desi Hits website

ELISABETH BRAW
Metro World News

Twenty years ago, Indian pop was weirdly exotic. Not so anymore. Today artists like Jay-Z and Missy Elliot sound "Indian" — and even Britney Spears has an Indian producer.

When Jay Sean burst on the music scene several years ago, he was labeled an Indian artist.

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist," the native Londoner tells Metro. "But just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."

Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath

"I think of myself simply as an R&B artist. Just because you're Indian, people put you in a pigeonhole, and it's very hard to leave that pigeonhole."
Jay Sean

But Jay Sean — born Kamaljeet Singh Jhooti — has succeeded. His 2004 debut album sold two million copies; this year his U.S. debut single topped the Billboard Hot 100.

Slumdog Millionaire showed that Indian pop culture has crossover appeal. So does the Internet website Desi Hits (desihits.com), which has risen to prominence along with Jay Sean.

"Slumdog has had a huge impact on people's interest in Indian pop and rock, especially since music played such an important role in it," says Desi Hits founder Anjula Acharia-Bath.

"So many artists, like M.I.A., Timbaland and the Black-Eyed Peas use Indian music, but people didn't know it was Indian until they watched Slumdog."

Acharia-Bath, a young British woman of Indian origin, founded Desi Hits after moving to the U.S. several years ago, and has fast become an entertainment power-broker known for making matches between A-list fashion producers, musicians, actors and artists.

Desi Hits now has 1.2 million unique visitors per month, a 300-per-cent increase from one year ago.

Today Jay Sean lives in New York, but he often visits his parents' home region of Punjab.

"India has all these musical events going on," he says. "But the mainstream media doesn't cover them. There are lots of great festivals with 80,000 kids listening to a concert, but nobody outside India hears about it.

"The funny thing is, the music isn't that different," he said.

Jay Sean, 26-year-old British-Indian R&B celebrity, is now a worldwide success.

Up-and-coming music of Indian origin

- Kazz Kumar (kazzkumar.com): The first lady of the Sona Family group has decided to go solo and revamp her image. She is very Lady Gaga-like in her sound and look.
- Imran Khan (imrankhanworld.com): His debut album Unforgettable was the biggest selling urban Desi Hits album of the year.
- Jaya (jayaworld.com): Just signed to All Around the World, a sub-label of Universal Records. Releasing her first single Dj Do It Again soon.

Box office

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theatres, according to The Associated Press:

1. **Avatar:** $73 million US
2. **The Princess and the Frog:** $12.2 million
3. **The Blind Side:** $10 million
4. **Did You Hear About the Morgans:** $7 million
5. **The Twilight Saga: New Moon:** $4.4 million
6. **Invictus:** $4.2 million
7. **Disney's A Christmas Carol:** $3.4 million
8. **Up in the Air:** $3.1 million
9. **Brothers:** $2.6 million
10. **Old Dogs:** $2.3 million

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Maci Bookout, 17, stars with her son Bentley on MTV's new reality show Teen Mom.

Guts and glory behind Teen Mom

TELEVSION Amber Portwood's lunch with a friend keeps getting interrupted by a crying baby. The problem is, the baby is Amber's. She packs up and leaves the restaurant before she can finish eating.

Quieting a fussy baby is all in a day's work for the 19-year-old and her co-stars on MTV's new reality show, Teen Mom (airing Tuesday nights). The show premiered to the highest rated series on the network in more than a year.

The girls on the show aren't strangers to cameras — they were also on MTV's 16 and Pregnant, which aired last summer. Teen Mom revisits the young mothers several months after giving birth.

"I really just wanted to show girls how hard it was to be a teen parent," says Maci Bookout, 17, of her decision to let her experience be filmed for TV.

Bookout was a popular high-school student with good grades and plans to go to college.

"I wanted girls who might get pregnant to see there are options out there to move forward with your life and still have goals," says Bookout, who plans to marry her baby's father and would like to have another child.

Not all the young women on Teen Mom chose to keep their babies. Catelynn Lowell, 17, for example, gave her daughter up for adoption last May.

"It was difficult because that's my daughter. . . . I knew in my heart it was the best (decision) so I just went forward with it," she says. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Judge on America's Best Dance Crew arrested
America's Best Dance Crew judge Shane Sparks has been arrested in Los Angeles and charged with eight felony counts of child molestation, TMZ is reporting. The Los Angeles Police Department took Sparks into custody Friday morning. **POPEATER.COM**

He's coach Snoop

Ex-gang member inspires football athletes

Football has long been the athletic stepchild at inner-city Crenshaw High School. Trophy cases are crammed with basketball awards. Gym walls are lined with hoops championship flags.

But the football team is undefeated this season and took part in the California state championship bowl game on the weekend. The coach attributes part of the success to an unlikely off-field source: rapper Snoop Dogg.

Nine of this year's Crenshaw High School Cougars went through the five-year-old Snoop Youth Football League, representing the first crop of varsity players to cut their teeth in the program. The league has produced standouts at other schools, but none has more players or a better record than Crenshaw.

The league has made Snoop Dogg, whose real name is Calvin Broadus, a saviour of sorts for football in an impoverished area of Los Angeles where gangs roam many of the streets.

"It is more of an advantage to have kids who played in the Snoop Dogg league," coach Robert Garrett said. "They also have the experience, the fundamentals and the attitude that guys who started from scratch don't have."

Broadus's reputation for raunchy lyrics and run-ins with the law brought some initial apprehension from the mostly single mothers who wanted to enrol their sons. "It was kind of hard to separate Snoop Dogg the entertainer from Snoop Dogg the coach, the father," league Commissioner Haamid Wadood said.

Former gang member Snoop Dogg gave $1.3 million.

"It is more of an advantage to have kids who played in the Snoop Dogg league."
Coach Robert Garrett

But the league soon caught on, especially when fathers with criminal records learned they could coach, unlike most other youth sports. Broadus, himself a former gang member, has several convictions for drugs and weapons offences.

Broadus, 38, launched the league in 2005 with $1 million of his own money after noticing that much of urban Los Angeles had no football for boys ages 5 to 13. He's since invested about $300,000, Wadood said. The league now has 2,500 kids enrolled.

Broadus, who was promoting his new album Malice in Wonderland this week, would not comment. While the rapper's larger-than-life figure was not the motivation for the kids to play football, his personal involvement boosts the self-esteem of boys who often receive little attention at home. He attends games and allows his bodyguards to let players approach him freely. Those intangibles, said coach Garrett, are invaluable.

"It's like a big family," said running back De'Anthony Thomas, a junior who sports a big gold and diamond cross pendant around his neck and who got his nickname Black Mamba in the Snoop league because of his speedy agility similar to the dangerous African snake.

It also helps team members fend off peer pressure to join gangs.

"It keeps me out of trouble, from hanging in places I shouldn't be," said wide receiver Geno Hall, a senior. "It's helped me to grow mentally."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jon&Kate's marriage finally over

TELEVISION Jon and Kate Gosselin officially divorced Friday after 10 years of marriage, eight children and a year of tabloid headlines.

Kate Gosselin gets the family home in eastern Pennsylvania in the no-fault divorce agreement, according to her lawyer, Mark Momjian. She will also continue as the primary caretaker of the reality TV couple's nine-year-old twins and five-year-old sextuplets.

They filed for divorce in June.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Trump files for divorce

Ivana Trump was hoping the fourth time would be the charm when it comes to marriage. No such luck. The socialite and former Mrs. Donald filed for divorce Friday from Italian guy Tossano Rubicondi, citing their busy schedules and time apart. **POPEATER.COM**

Entertainment in brief

LEGAL Rapper Lil Wayne and 11 people travelling with him were briefly detained Friday night. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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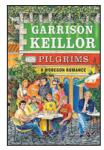
A journey of uncertainty



Pilgrims

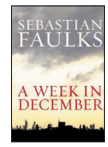
Author: Garrison Keillor
Publisher: Faber & Faber
Price: $24 (Paperback)

SET IN LAKE Wobegon, the town noted American radio personality Garrison Keillor put on the map in his past works Lake Wobegon Days and Lake Wobegon Summer 1956, Pilgrims arrives at a point of uncertainty in Margie and Carl Krebsbach's relationship. In her attempt to conquer their sexual drought, Margie plans a trip to Rome under the pretense of tidying the unkempt grave of a local boy who died there during the city's 1944 liberation. But her travel plans are grounded when a host of colourful locals warm to the idea and want to tag along, foiling her chances for the personal connection she wanted.

A Good Fall

Author: Ha Jin
Publisher: Pantheon
Price: $29.95 (Hardcover)

IN HIS LATEST collection of stories, Chinese author Ha Jin enters the immigrant experience, focusing on Chinese characters in America and their feelings of being torn between two national identities. Children as Enemies follows young people inclined to change their names to appear more "American", to the upset of their grandfather. Immigrants unable to bring their husbands or wives to America are central to In Temporary Love, a story that explores the connection of the divided. Jin's stories are told with precision and passion, presenting stories that hone in on intimate feelings and distress felt existing in a foreign world.



A Week in December

Author: Sebastian Faulks
Publisher: Hutchinson
Price: $34.95 (Hardcover)

BRITISH WRITER Sebastian Faulks tries to decongest metropolitan English life in his latest novel, A Week in December. The story is made even more critical by its air of "faction," a work masking real characters and events with fiction. The comical book unfolds during one week in December 2007, and follows a party planning by an MP and his wife. The invited guests — who include high finance heads, a journalist and a football player — bring their stories to the pages. They tie together themes like greed and religious fundamentalism, contrasted with the global financial crisis.

Brian Coulton/for Metro Canada

BookPicks

Gibson retires from ABC News

Gibson

CAREER Considered one way, Charles Gibson's career in TV news seems to be a model of stability: 34 years logged with one employer, ABC. There, he did his job well and rose to the top echelon of his profession, forming a firm bond with his viewers and offering his gracious signoff, "I hope you had a good day."

On the other hand, Gibson, who retired Friday from the World News anchor desk and from ABC as a full-time employee, is bowing out as more than an admired network news star.

At 66, he's a proven utility player, game to handle a range of positions and scramble to the rescue when needed.

In an orderly and low-key passing of the torch, Dianne Sawyer will replace him today at the World News anchor desk.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

In brief

TECHNOLOGY Hackers briefly blocked access to the popular Internet messaging service Twitter overnight, steering traffic to another website where a group reportedly calling itself the "Iranian Cyber Army"' claimed responsibility. Users trying to reach Twitter early Friday were redirected to a webpage that CNN reported had a picture of a green flag and a message that said, "This site has been hacked by the Iranian Cyber Army." There was no evidence the hackers are actually linked to Iran.

FILM Captain EO is moonwalking back to Disneyland. The theme park announced plans Friday to bring back the 3-D sci-fi film starring Michael Jackson next February, over 23 years after the attraction debuted in Anaheim, Calif. The 17-minute film starred the late King of Pop as a singing-and-dancing intergalactic commander. It was directed by Francis Ford Coppola.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style
Kenya Hunt
Exclusively at metronews.ca/globalstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit:
metronews.ca/movies

CA	Vu	SC	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
12/21/09 primetime	267	351 - ACCESS	Alberta Primetime (Live)		Stargate Atlantis (DVS)		Rita MacNeil's Cape Breton		Gossip Girl (HDTV)		Primetime
	243	317 3 CFCN	CSI: Miami (HDTV)		*Paradise City: Degrassi Goes Hollywood* (2009) (DVS)				Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CTV News
	-	- 4 OMNI	King	The Simpsons	Omni News: S. Asian Edition		Omni News: Cantonese Edition		Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Metropia
	-	371 5 KXLY	4 News at 6	4 News at 6:30	Entertainment	The Insider (N)	I Want a Dog for Christmas		Find My Family (N)		Castle
	245	306 6 CBRT	Wheel Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Just for Laughs (N)		The Hour Holiday Special (N)		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	244	338 7 CICT	ET Canada	Entertainment	Holmes in New Orleans		House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		News Hour
	246	- 8 CKAL	Murdoch Mysteries		The Jay Leno Show (N)		How I Met	Accidentally	Mercy		Your City
	119	705 9 CBXFT	Martin sur la route (N) (SC)		Le Moment de vérité (SC)		Le Grand Rire 2009		Le Téléjournal Nouvelles. (SC)		La Zone (SC)
	-	- 10 SHAW	(6) Local Programming						Local Programming		
	-	372 12 KREM	News	Access H.	The Doctors		How I Met	Accidentally	Two/Half Men	Big Bang Th	CSI: Miami
	-	374 14 KSPS	PBS NewsHour (N)		'Allo, 'Allo!	Steves Europe	Antiques Roadshow (N)		Great Performances (HDTV)		
	502	390 15 CBC	CBC News: The National		The Life of JK Rowling		CBC News: The National		CBC News: The National		JK Rowling
	-	370 16 KHQ	News (N)	Be-Millionaire	Jeopardy! (N)	Wheel Fortune	The Sing-Off "The Finale" The winning group is revealed.				Jay Leno Show
	-	373 22 KAYU	The Office	Raymond	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	House "Epic Fail"		Lie to Me (HDTV)		News
	297	652 37 WPIX	Gossip Girl (HDTV)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men	Friends	Friends	According-Jim	Family Guy
news	500	500 29 CNN	Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)				Larry King Live		Cooper 360
	508	502 31 CNN2	The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace		Showbiz Tonight		The Joy Behar Show		Nancy Grace
sports	400	400 21 TSN	(6:30) NFL Football New York Giants at Washington Redskins.					SportsCentre		World Poker Tour: Season 7	
	408	418 27 net	NHL Hockey St. Louis Blues at Edmonton Oilers. (HDTV) (Live)					Sportsnet Con.	Sportsnet Connected		Telus Oilers
	410	403 30 SCORE	(7:15) WWE Monday Night RAW				Score Now	Score Now	WWE Monday Night RAW		
	411	457 44 OLN	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Ghost Hunters
	417	406 48 SPEED	Barrett-Jackson		Barrett-Jackson		Car Crazy	Pass Time	SuperCars	SuperCars	Auctions
family	552	543 20 YTV	*Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh* (2008, Comedy)				*Scrooged* ★★★ (1988, Comedy) Bill Murray.				Family Biz
	557	541 39 FAM	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Sonny Chance	Zack & Cody	Overruled!	Han. Montana	Wizards-Place	Latest Buzz	Ned's School
	555	545 67 TOON	*Bah, Humduck! Looney Tunes*		*Jack Frost* ★★ (1998, Fantasy) Michael Keaton.				Futurama	King of the Hill	American Dad
cable variety	575	583 11 CMT	(6) *Snow 2 Brain Freeze*		Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Live & Up Front: Doc Walker		*Snow 2 Brain Freeze* (2008, Comedy)		
	553	546 17 TREE	Little Bear	Max & Ruby	A Very Fairy Christmas		Max & Ruby	Dragon (DVS)	Backyardigans	Ni Hao, Kai-lan	Go, Diego, Go!
	505	398 19 TWN	(5) EarthWatch One		EarthWatch One		EarthWatch Two				
	602	568 23 W	Maxed Out	Grocery Bag	*Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey.				*Eve's Christmas* (2004, Comedy-Drama)		
	521	560 24 TLC	Little Chocolatiers (N)		World Chocolate		Little People	Little People	Little Chocolatiers		Choc. Champ
	603	561 25 FOOD	Top Chef: Las Vegas		Dinner: Impossible		Iron Chef America		Unwrapped		Chef: Vegas
	615	520 26 A&E	Intervention "Rob" (N)		Hoarders (HDTV) (N)		Hoarders "Judi and Gail"		(10:01) Intervention		Intervention
	617	522 32 SHOW	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Outer Limits		*His and Her Christmas* (2005, Comedy-Drama)				Bones
	601	562 33 SLICE	Instant Beauty Pageant		Plastic Makes	Plastic-Perfect	ET Canada	Whatever	Work Out		Brat Camp
	-	633 34 ENC2	(7:05) *The Guilty* ★★ (1999, Suspense) Bill Pullman.				*Sneakers* ★★★ (1992, Suspense) Robert Redford.				*Sum of Fears*
	520	505 35 DISC	Dirty Jobs "Tofu Maker" (N)		Man vs. Wild "Namibia"		Daily Planet		MythBusters		Man vs. Wild
	620	523 36 BRAVO	Yo-Yo Ma: The Making of Songs of Joy & Peace				Law & Order "Kids"		Without a Trace		*Broken Hearts*
	294	650 40 WPCH	Law & Order: SVU		*Getting Played* (2005, Romance-Comedy)			(9:45) *Getting Played* (2005, Romance-Comedy)			
	626	547 41 COM	Just for Laughs		Air Farce	22 Minutes	Corner Gas	22 Minutes	The Simpsons	South Park	TBA
	-	539 42 TCM	(6) *State of the Union*		(8:15) *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* ★★★★ (1939, Comedy-Drama)					*Meet John Doe* (DVS)	
	628	584 43 SPIKE	*Forrest Gump* ★★★ (1994, Drama) Tom Hanks, Robin Wright, Gary Sinise.						Real Vice	Real Vice	Real Vice
	522	516 45 HIST	Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Convoy: War of the Atlantic		Patton 360		Battles BC		Nostradamus
	627	528 46 SPACE	*Sea Ghost* (2004, Horror) Billy Warlock. (DVS)				Stargate SG-1		Star Trek: Next Gener.		Trek: Voyager
	-	- 47 AMC	(6) *A Christmas Carol* (1984, Fantasy)			*Holiday Inn* ★★★ (1942, Musical Comedy) Bing Crosby.				(10:45) *Christmas Eve*	
	619	525 49 TROP	Carlawood	Carlawood	Raymond	Raymond	The Outer Limits		ET Canada	Comeback	Family Guy
	600	564 50 HGTV	House Poor (N)	My First Place	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes on Homes		House Poor	Income Prop.	For Rent
	501	391 52 CTV	CTV News Tonight		CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News	CTV News
	504	508 70 BNN	Squeeze Play		Business News	Berman's Call	Market Call Tonight		Headline	MoneyTalk	Squeeze Play
	526	507 92 VIVA	The Closer		Cold Case		Mediums	In Dreams	Judging Amy		Missing
	269	350 93 APTN	Metcom	La Voix Mechif	New Canoe	Wings-Canada	Venturing Frth	MYTV	Arbor Live		Rez Rides
	-	- 94 MCP	World News	News	Sewing Maid	Boys Over Flo	State Secret		To Be Announced		Pinoy-Entertain
	571	581 100 MMM	Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage	Wild 'n Out	Ranked!		Fabulous Life Of...		Entourage
	570	580 101 MM	So You Think You Can Dance		So You Think You Can Dance		MuchOnDemand		House	Selena Gomez	Dance
	581	566 102 MTV	Teen Mom		Super Sweet	Teen Cribs	MTV Live	MTV News	MTV Cribs	MTV Cribs	Super Sweet
	-	- 116 TV5	Petits meurtres	Coco Chanel			TV5 Le Journal	Wallis, le peuple du lagon		Vie privée, vie publique	

critics' corner

Snow 2 Brain Freeze
Some of the "new Santa" movies of recent years have been tolerable, but this universe, first seen in 2004's "Snow," pushes the limits of what those of us raised on the traditional Santa lore can swallow. In this sequel, the jolly not-so-old elf gets amnesia three days before Christmas, and it's up to his lovely Mrs. to save the day. 6 PM on CMT

Eve's Christmas
The "It's a Wonderful Life" story gets a different twist in this holiday drama. A successful but lonely advertising executive wishes she could change some things in her past. And guess what; it's Christmas Eve, a night for wishes coming true. Yup, she actually gets to live those moments of decision over again. 10 PM on W

The Big Bang Theory
The holidays aren't very merry for Leonard when a handsome colleague (guest star Michael Trucco) begins dating Penny (Kaley Cuoco), while Sheldon (Jim Parsons) drives everyone nuts trying to master the nuances of gift-giving etiquette. Simon Helberg co-stars in "The Bath Item Gift Hypothesis." 10:31 PM on CFCN KREM

Knowles' parents file for divorce
Tina Knowles filed for divorce from Mathew Knowles in November, a source close to the showbiz family confirms to usmagazine.com recently. The parents to Beyonce and Solange Knowles have been married for 29 years. METRO NEWS SERVICES

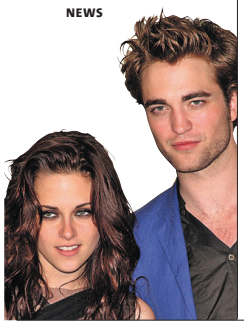
Celebrity Buzz

Pattinson and Stewart spotted in Venice Beach

DINING OUT Robert Pattinson and Kristen Stewart failed to go unnoticed recently when they headed out to enjoy a nice dinner together in Los Angeles' Venice Beach neighborhood.

"It looked like they were on a nice stroll through the neighborhood," a source tells E! News. "They seemed really just into hanging together. They weren't holding hands, but were really sweet with each other."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Jonas brother Kevin gets hitched at swanky estate

ISN'T THAT SWEET? In a setting fit for a Disney prince and his princess, Kevin Jonas married Danielle Deleasa Saturday night at Oheka Castle, a turn-of-the-century French-style chateau, on a sprawling estate in Long Island, people.com reports.

"We're so happy that we're finally married and we were able to share the special moment with family, friends and loved ones," the couple tells People.

Though a blizzard threatened the festivities, the wedding attended by 400 family members and friends, including Demi Lovato, went forward as scheduled.

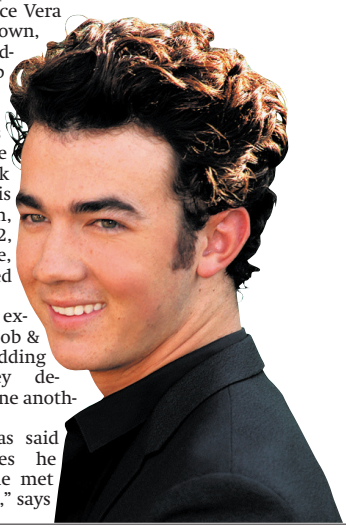
"The snow only made it look more like a winter wonderland," said Michael Russo, a celebrity event planner of Roses-n-Lollipops, who for Saturday's event created a fairy-tale forest under heated white tents, complete with 14-foot trees draped in hydrangeas and crystals made to look like icicles.

"Danielle looked like a princess," he said. When she walked down the aisle in her strapless tulle and Chantilly lace Vera Wang gown, "Kevin couldn't stop smiling," said Russo.

With his brothers, Joe and Nick serving as his best men, Kevin, 22, and Danielle, 23, recited traditional vows and exchanged Jacob & Co. wedding bands they designed for one another.

"Kevin has said many times he feels like he met his princess," says Russo. "To see them together you can feel the warmth and the love all around them. They are just perfect for each other."

METRO NEWS SERVICES



Michael Lohan wants better pals for Lindsay

BECAUSE HE HAS SET SUCH A STELLAR EXAMPLE Michael Lohan hopes that a higher class of friends is just the thing daughter Lindsay Lohan needs to keep her on the straight and narrow. So Lindsay being spotted last week at the same party as Leonardo DiCaprio is a good thing, he tells Hollyscoop.

"They have been friends for years," Michael says. "Mark Wahlberg, Robert Downey Jr., Leonardo DiCaprio and a few others. I think they have a lot of positive things to offer."

METRO WORLD NEWS

Celebrity tweets

Stan Lee likes to brag, Jordin Sparks is not enjoying winter, Joel McHale gives you detailed updates, and Russell Simmons is aiming higher.

- @smilinstanlee So far I've taken pix with 3 presidents, Clinton, Reagan and Bush. I often wonder how this country could ever have run without me.
- @TheRealJordin I hate the cold. And I have a cold. Ha. A cold in the cold. Great. Soup time!
- @joelmchale There's a woman placing Korean food in front of me right now.
- @UncleRUSH Yogis believe the ultimate payoff "heaven"can be realized on earth. This enlightenment is your birthrite .

METRO WORLD NEWS

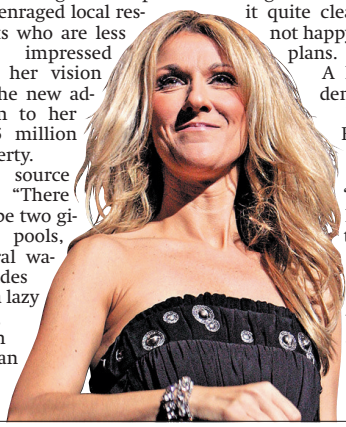
Water park upsets neighbours

HER PARK WILL GO ON Celine Dion has upset neighbours over plans to build a water park in her home, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The 41-year-old singer has reportedly enraged local residents who are less than impressed with her vision for the new addition to her $12.5 million property.

A source said: "There will be two giant pools, several waterslides and a lazy river, much like an amusement park." While Dion's eight-year-old son Rene-Charles and the rest of her extended family might be happy, some of the neighbours have made it quite clear they're not happy with her plans.

A local resident told the National Enquirer magazine: "It's totally distasteful and demeans the whole area."

METRO WORLD NEWS



Divorce papers filed

SPLITSVILLE Three months after announcing their separation, Deane Sheremet has filed for divorce from country star LeAnn Rimes, according to Los Angeles court papers people.com reports.

Sheremet cites "irreconcilable differences" for the end of their nearly eight-year marriage, which crumbled when Rimes began a relationship with actor Eddie Cibrian, who also was married at the time to Brandi Glanville (Cibrian and Glanville are also divorcing.)

Sheremet, 29, is seeking spousal support from Rimes, 27, and wants her to pay the attorney fees, according to the papers, which were filed Thursday in Superior Court. The pair have no children.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Jacko tribute scrapped

ONCE AGAIN Jermaine Jackson's global tribute to his late brother Michael has been scrapped for the second time, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Organizers at World Awards Media, led by the King of Pop's older brother, cancelled a Vienna, Austri, concert in September after struggling to secure stars to perform at the event. The show was rescheduled for London next summer.

The latter concert appeared to be in trouble after an executive decision to dissolve the company behind the project was made last month. Martin Schneider, liquidator for the organizers, said: "The company cannot sign any new contracts and will certainly not plan any new events."

Now Jermaine Jackson has declined to forge ahead with the show, which was to initially feature Mary J. Blige, Chris Brown and veteran singer Natalie Cole.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Amy, Blake try again

BACK ON Regardless of what their parents have been saying, Amy Winehouse and Blake Fielder-Civil are apparently giving marriage another go.

"We're back together, and we're engaged. Amy and I have talked about getting married again and starting a family — we both definitely want kids," Fielder-Civil tells the Sun.

"This time we are doing things properly and hopefully that will help both our families come round to the idea. We've both been through a lot but we love each other the same as ever. We've tried to get on with our lives and to see other people, but it wasn't the same."

METRO WORLD NEWS

No piece of American Pie for Kevin Federline

SOMEONE NEEDS WORK Kevin Federline lost out on a role in the latest American Pie movie — playing himself, people.com reports.

"They called me up and asked if I was interested," Federline, 31, tells People. "I was up for a different part originally, but then they didn't want me playing myself. I think they thought it would be funnier for me as a Canadian border guard."

One day of shooting on location in Vancouver later, Federline was transformed, donning a hat, uniform and badge for his cameo in American Pie Presents: The Book of Love, out on DVD tomorrow.

Newly svelte from his appearance on Celebrity Fit Club, Federline is ready and available for more work.

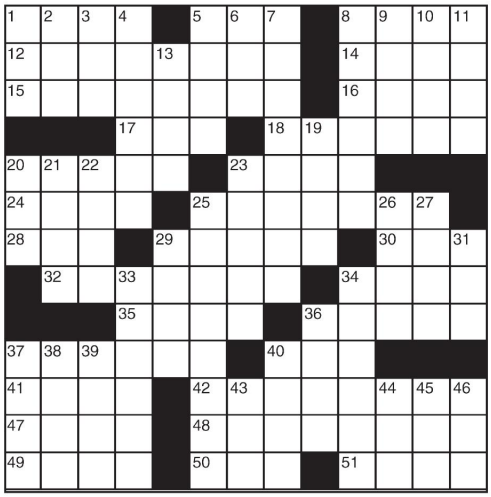
METRO WORLD NEWS

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Today Mostly Cloudy -10 C / -13 C
Tuesday Late Sun -11 C / -14 C
Wednesday Ice Fog -14 C / -18 C

Andrew Schultz, Meteorologist – Breakfast Television
"I get to spread the word on how your day, evening or weekend will shape up with our ever-changing weather here in Alberta."
WEEKDAYS AT 6 A.M.

Take Five



ACROSS

1 Pinza of "South Pacific"
5 "Give — break!"
8 Dweeby type
12 "The View" co-host
14 Old Italian money
15 Source of great wealth
16 Press
17 — Bon Jovi
18 Most recent
20 For a specific purpose
23 Platter
24 Nitwit
25 Tennessee city
28 Right angle
29 Funnyman Jerry
30 Medic, familiarly
32 Compose in print
34 Medal earner
35 Wan
36 Substantial
37 Where originally located
40 Motorists' org.
41 Crucifix
42 Yukon event
47 African antelope
48 Report-card sticker, maybe
49 Break suddenly
50 Computer file suffix
51 Danson et al.

DOWN

1 Early bird?
2 Menagerie
3 Under the weather
4 Goldfinger ally
5 Chicken chow —
6 Compass point suffix
7 "18 or older" provision
8 Snafu
9 Ireland
10 Greek Cupid
11 Philosopher Immanuel
13 University VIP
19 Poisonous snakes
20 Mr. Lincoln
21 Foolish one
22 Sacred
23 One of Donald Duck's nephews
25 Crazy, in Yiddish
26 Concept
27 Kind
29 For fear that
31 Coquettish
33 Settled a debt
34 "Citizen Kane" inspiration
36 Anti-DUI org.
37 Annoys
38 Verb counterpart
39 Carbonated drink
40 "— Well That Ends Well"
43 "Alley- —!"
44 Multipurpose truck
45 Despondent
46 Day fractions (Abbr.)

Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

		3				8		
		6	9		4	7		
9				2				1
	8	9	6		2	1	7	
	7	2	5		1	3	4	
8				7				2
		7	3		9	5		
		1				6		

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:

2	5	4	3	9	1	6	7	8
6	1	8	4	7	5	2	3	9
7	9	3	2	8	6	4	1	5
1	2	6	9	4	3	8	5	7
8	3	5	7	1	2	9	4	6
4	7	9	6	5	8	3	2	1
3	6	7	5	2	9	1	8	4
5	8	2	1	6	4	7	9	3
9	4	1	8	3	7	5	6	2

On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca

Metro Recipe of the Day

Baked Rosemary Monkfish

INGREDIENTS:

1 Tbsp (15 mL) olive oil
Two 1/2 lb (250 g) monkfish fillets (membrane removed)
2 garlic cloves, quartered
2 fresh rosemary sprigs, broken up
1 lime
2 Tbsp (25 mL) butter
4 tomatoes, halved

METHOD:

1. Preheat oven to 400°F (200°C). Cut two pieces of foil, each large enough to enclose a piece of monkfish. Brush foil with a little oil.
2. Put one monkfish fillet on each piece of foil. Make small slits all over fish. Push garlic pieces and rosemary sprigs into slits.
3. Grate lime zest over fish. Trim off lime ends, then cut into four thick slices. Squeeze some drops of lime juice over fish, then lay slices on top of fillets. Dot with butter and season to taste.
4. Put tomatoes, cut side up, alongside fish. Fold up foil to enclose fish and tomatoes and seal edges.
5. Put parcels on baking tray and bake 10 minutes. Open foil and bake until fish is opaque and cooked through. Test with point of knife. Cut each piece of fish in half and transfer to plates with tomatoes. Pour over juices from parcels and serve.

SERVES 4

rd.ca

For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to rd.ca or check out Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!

Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

ARIES ♈
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You will totally disagree with what you are told today. You can't take seriously something that is so outrageous.

TAURUS ♉
APRIL 21-MAY 21
According to the planets you are expecting too much of yourself and must adjust your ambitions to a more reasonable level.

GEMINI ♊
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Don't waste time on petty arguments. You should be channeling your energy in productive directions, not debating issues of no real importance.

CANCER ♋
JUNE 22-JULY 22
You will have to make some kind of financial adjustment over the next 24 hours, most likely because you have bitten off more than you can chew.

LEO ♌
JULY 23-AUG 23
If you embellish the truth in any way, shape or form you will almost certainly be found out – and that could be embarrassing later in the week.

VIRGO ♍
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Try not to provoke an argument or confrontation today because it is unlikely to go in your favor.

LIBRA ♎
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Is something you thought was as real as it comes an illusion after all? That is the question you will be asking yourself today.

SCORPIO ♏
OCT 24-NOV 22
Listen to what others have to tell you today but don't think you have to think or do as they say.

SAGITTARIUS ♐
NOV 23-DEC 21
With Jupiter, your ruler, aspecting Neptune, planet of illusion, today you will find it hard to make up your mind about what you should be doing.

CAPRICORN ♑
DEC 22-JAN 20
You will have some wonderful ideas and insights as the new week begins but don't be too eager to put them to the test because this is a time for thinking.

AQUARIUS ♒
JAN 21-FEB 18
Cosmic activity in and around your birth sign means there will be so much going on in your world that you find it hard to get your head around it.

PISCES ♓
FEB 19-MARCH 20
Try not to take your doubts and fears too seriously – they are no more than negative manifestations of your over-active imagination.

This day in history

1913: Arthur Wynne's "word-cross", the first crossword puzzle, is published in the New York World.
1937: Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs, the first full-length animated film ever, premieres at the Carthay Circle Theater.
1958: French presidential election: Charles de Gaulle is elected President of France as his Union des Démocrates pour la République party gain 78.5% of the vote.
1968: Apollo program: Apollo 8, the first manned mission to the moon, is launched from the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.
1969: The Gay Activists Alliance is formed in New York City.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

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